Spring 2017 Commencement

May 3, 2017

**MSU Engineering says good-bye to 663 undergrads, 119 master’s, and 51 PhD students**

Michigan State University will host commencement ceremonies for more than 830 graduates of the College of Engineering this weekend.

**Advanced degrees** -- The Advanced Degree Commencement is Friday, May 5, at 3:30 p.m. in MSU's Breslin Center. There will be 119 master's and 51 PhD candidates from the College of Engineering. The ceremony is 2 1/2 hours long. There are no admission tickets required.

**Undergraduates** -- The College of Engineering will host graduation services for more than 660 undergraduates on Sunday, May 7, at 12:30 p.m. in the Breslin Center. The ceremony is two hours long. There are no admission tickets required.

Leo Kempel, dean of the College of Engineering, will offer both the welcome and closing remarks at undergraduate graduation.

Robert Cobau, a senior in computer science, will sing the *Star Spangled Banner*.

Amanda Idema, assistant dean for Undergraduate Student Affairs, serves as commencement coordinator.

**Undergraduate commencement speaker**

Jadel Hughes Davis will present the senior class address. A first-generation college student from Detroit, she will receive a degree in chemical engineering, with a concentration in biomedical engineering. She has a minor in entrepreneurship and innovation.
Her commencement address to her fellow engineering graduates will be "The Sparks of Innovation."

Hughes Davis is a member of the MSU Honors College. She is president of the MSU chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and created a website to support minorities in STEM called MECA - Minority Experiences in Colorless Atmospheres at ourmeca.com.

Hughes Davis has accepted a position with General Motors in its global propulsions unit in Pontiac, Michigan.

**Undergraduate keynote address**

Steven H. Noll, JD, (BS ’74, electrical engineering) will present the undergraduate keynote address as the 2017 Claud R. Erickson Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient. Noll will receive the honor at the College of Engineering Alumni Awards banquet on Saturday. The award is the highest honor presented to an alumnus by the college. It recognizes professional accomplishment, volunteer service, and distinguished service to the college and the engineering profession.
A 1974 Honors College graduate, Noll received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering.

After graduation, he worked as an engineer in the Government and Industrial Research Group at Magnavox Co., and then attended law school at Ohio State University, receiving his law degree in 1977.

He has practiced law in the field of intellectual property, specializing in patent law, and is currently a partner in the firm of Schiff Hardin LLP in Chicago.

Noll served two eight-year terms on the College of Engineering Alumni Board, including two years as the board chair. He is a guest lecturer each semester in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Capstone class, and also serves as a Design Day judge for that class each semester.

He and his wife, Sarah, reside in Chicago.

**About MSU Commencement**

MSU is hosting 19 commencement ceremonies from Thursday, May 4, through Sunday, May 7. Spring Undergraduate Convocation is Friday, May 5, at 1 p.m.

*Notice to visitors:* Consistent with Breslin Center policy, all bags will be subject to search. No food or beverages – including bottled water – will be allowed into Breslin Center, and this applies to graduates, guests and faculty participating in the ceremonies. As such, Breslin will offer a limited menu of concessions for sale one hour prior to the start of ceremonies and during the first hour of ceremonies. Additional prohibited items include large cameras, recording devices, noisemakers, sticks, pets, signs or weapons of any form. Smoking is prohibited at the Breslin Center.

Twitter users: #MSUgrad17

**Related Website:** [Details on MSU Commencement](https://www.msu.edu/commencement/)

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MSU to graduate 7,900 Spartans - Kirk Gibson to speak